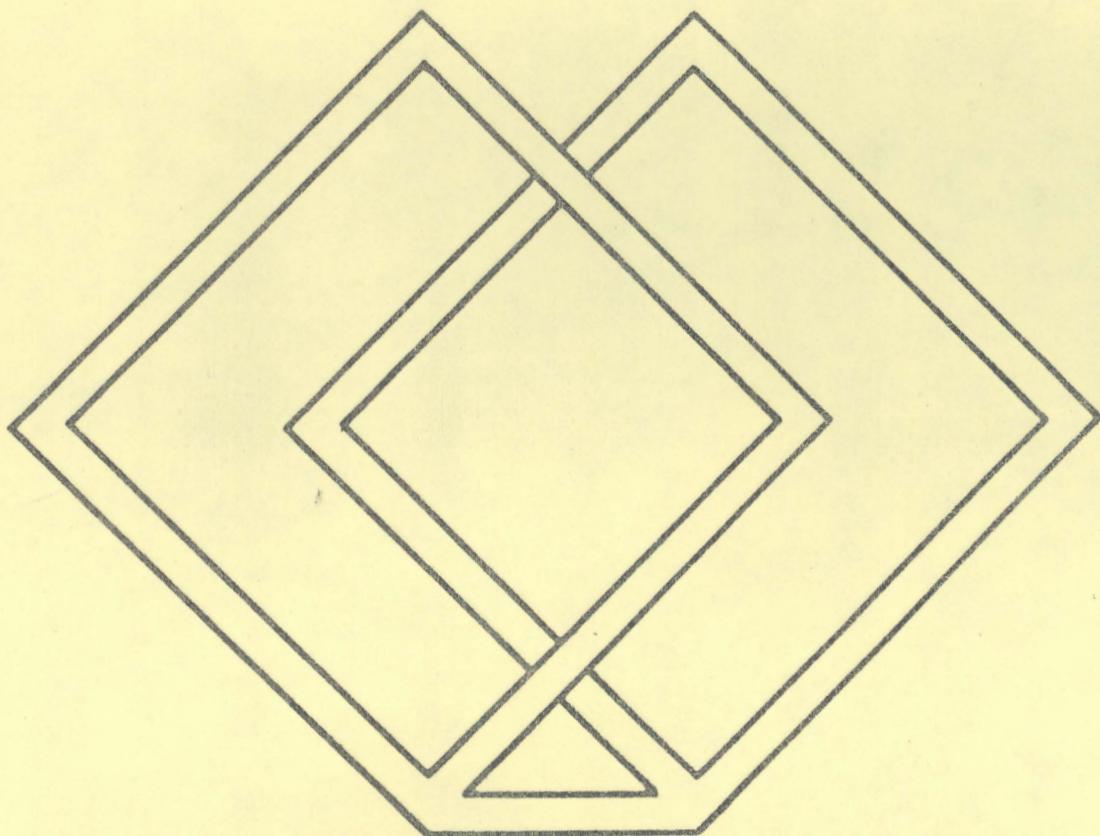


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THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

P.O Box 229, PROSPECT, S.A. 5082



The Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies - Volume 4. Number 1.

January/February 1983

Subscription: \$10 (Australian Currency) annually, payable in advance.

Address: P.O. Box 229, PROSPECT, S.A. 5082, Australia.

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Editorial

by Bill Chalker

WHERE HAVE ALL THE REPORTS GONE ?

One of the more interesting things to emerge from my inspection of the RAAF UFO files in Canberra over the last year, was that their files represent the only substantive and largely continuous record of UFO reports in Australia for the period 1950 to 1982. To unravel the civilian picture requires extraordinary efforts of exhumation. This has made me reflect upon the extent of civilian documentation that has ostensibly gone into the void. Some examples are:

1. The files of Edgar Jarrold and the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau (1952-55).
2. The files of the Flying Saucer Investigation Committee (1953-54) and its report of July 1954.
3. The files of Fred Stone, UFOPIA.

So much possibly important material may have been lost forever. One can only hope that documentation sources like those mentioned may yet surface for our collective consideration.

My investigations into the RAAF files have caused me to reconsider in depth the sightings of the 1950s. A lot of previously unknown documentation has been unearthed, and in due course will be disseminated. Some particularly interesting cases occurred during this early period, and I believe it is important to be aware of the legacy of the fifties, and for that matter, of the sixties.

I hope that all parties associated with ACUFOS will support an intensive programme to make available documentation sources as they become available. After all it is knowledge and the breadth of our data base that lends a sense of credibility to any research or speculation we might enter into. It is only with a clear conception of our information base that we can make progress, albeit tentative at times.

It is therefore timely that we applaud the documentation efforts of researchers working with ACUFOS. More recently, for example, we have seen:

1. A car interference catalogue prepared by Keith Basterfield & Paul Jackson.
2. A psiufological catalogue prepared by Mark Moravec.

Such exercises are worthwhile ventures into providing data collections that can be used as stepping stones to bigger and better things. Let us hope that more will be forthcoming.

Hypnotic States and UFO Experiences

Hypnosis, as traditionally conceptualised, is an artificially induced ASC brought about through certain "induction" techniques. The basic characteristics attributed to hypnosis include passivity, redistribution of attention, increased fantasy and role behaviour, reduction in reality testing with increased tolerance for reality distortion, and hypersuggestibility (Hilgard, cited by Honorton, 1974).

In contrast with artificially induced hypnotic states, autohypnosis is a hypnosis which is self-induced.

A possible example of autohypnosis in the UFO context occurred one night in March 1958 during the Algerian War. The location was a French Foreign Legion camp at Bouahmama. A legionnaire on sentry duty was sitting on the ground with his rifle. Suddenly he heard a whistling noise which seemed to be coming down from the sky. He immediately looked up and saw an enormous, elliptical-shaped object descend and hover silently 35-40 metres above the ground and at a distance of little more than 50 metres away from him.

"The object was surrounded by pale green light, and an intense conical beam of emerald-green light was coming from the centre of the under-part towards the ground. Legionnaire N.G. did not fire his rifle, nor did he pick up the telephone. He just remembers staring at the object for 45 to 50 minutes. The pale green and emerald colours were the most beautiful, relaxing and fascinating colours he had ever seen. Legionnaire N.G. had forgotten all about the war. All nervous or psychological tension had gone from his mind. He was just feeling happy." Then the noise came again, the object rose gently, and flew off at tremendous speed.

"What the Legionnaire then felt was a sort of sadness at the disappearance of this beautiful sight. After a few minutes this feeling began to fade, yielding place to a return of his ordinary state of consciousness, until his full mental faculties were back. He quickly picked up his telephone and reported what he had seen."

A careful investigation followed. The percipient was sent to a military hospital in Paris where he was kept for a week under close scrutiny by neurologists and psychiatrists. The doctors concluded that he was in a state of good physical and mental health and had not been notably affected by the strains caused by wartime service in Algeria. Regarding his amazingly peaceful state during the sighting, the percipient used words like: "It was like time running very slowly...it was like being in another world" (Mesnard, 1973, pp 17-18). Recall the time distortion factor which we discussed earlier as an important characteristic of ASCs.

The Algerian case contains many features suggestive of a hypnotic state being experienced by the witness - namely his entrancement by the fascinating colours of the phenomenon; the relaxing effect and elimination of tension; the feeling of happiness; and his complete distraction from everyday worries such as the war and the duty to report his experience immediately to his superiors.

In some cases, a hypnotic or trance-like state is followed by more complex behaviour such as an apparent "possession" by another personality. For example, in November 1966 in a field outside Owatonna, Minnesota, two women were watching bright, blinking lights which were dancing around the sky. "Suddenly one of the objects descended rapidly and hovered at the far end of the field where they stood, swinging back and forth a few feet above the ground. Colored lights flickered around its glowing rim. One of the women let out a little gasp and crumpled to her knees in a trancelike daze. Her

friend, Mrs Ralph Butler, reached for her, but she was immobile, her head dipped down. A strange voice, stilted and metallic, came spasmodically from her lips. 'What...is...your...time...cycle?' The voice asked. Mrs Butler recovered from her surprise and tried to explain how we measured minutes, hours, and days. 'What...constitutes ...a...day...and...what...constitutes...a...night?...' The voice continued" (Keel, 1970, p 184). After a few more innocuous questions, the other woman came out of her trance and the object shot upward. "'Boy, I'm glad that's over,' she remarked simply." The women believed that they had communicated with a flying saucer through some telepathic means. More likely, according to the ASC-UFO interpretation, the entranced woman had momentarily made contact with her own unconscious mind.

It has been suggested that autohypnosis played a role in the famous Betty and Barney Hill episode (Fuller, 1974). The proposal is that Barney Hill became entranced as a result of staring at the star-like object which he first observed, and that during this state he fantasised an abduction experience. Note that such a possibility is consistent with the increased fantasy and reduced reality testing typical of hypnotic states. However, as will be discussed later, the hypnotic age regression of the percipients and the dreams of Betty Hill perhaps played a more important role.

In contrast with the self-induced, spontaneous nature of autohypnosis, hypnotic regression is a deliberate, artificially induced form of hypnosis. An example of the phenomena produced during hypnotic regression is illustrated by the on-going contactee experiences of Andrija Puharich. Over the years, this electronics engineer and parapsychologist has been associated with several famous, alleged psychics including Brazilian "psychic surgeon" Arigo and spoon-bender Uri Geller. It was in the latter's biography that Puharich first announced that he and Geller were in communication with alleged extraterrestrial entities. After splitting with Geller in 1974 due to personality conflicts, Puharich re-initiated his "cosmic connection" through other psychics acting as channels for the alleged extraterrestrial communicators.

"It was routine procedure in Puharich's investigations of psychics to put them into a hypnotic regression in order to see if any information could be gleaned from their subconscious as to the source of their paranormal abilities." In March 1974, Puharich did this with a psychic named "Bobby". Although Bobby had never been under hypnosis before he immediately went into a trance state and began to channel a coherent intelligence. "Though the conscious Bobby knew nothing of Puharich's erstwhile cosmic colleagues, the entranced Bobby became a spokesman for an extra-terrestrial that identified itself as 'Corean', which it later transpired was the name of a civilisation and not an individual" (Holroyd, 1979, p 49).

Corean announced that they (the extraterrestrials) would land on earth as they had done before. They have come to help a confused mankind. Bobby was one of several "chosen channels". During these communications, Bobby was slumped in a chair, his head lolling loosely to one side. When he came out of the trance, Bobby had no knowledge of the instructions which he had uttered.

Had Bobby really communicated with physically real extraterrestrial beings? Or had he merely tapped into his own unconscious and played out a science-fiction-like fantasy, aided by the promptings of his questioner and his ready responses under the more compliant state of hypnosis?

Hypnotic regression has also been used in UFO cases featuring a "time lapse" phenomenon. In these cases, the percipient is unable to

recall the events which occurred during a certain period of time. Hypnotic regression techniques have been used on the percipient in an attempt to account for the period of lost time. Often, while under hypnosis, the percipient has recounted a bizarre tale of "abduction" by UFO entities. In recent years, a grand debate has raged within ufology as to the validity of the data obtained during the hypnotic regression of UFO percipients.

Hilgard (1977, p 43) has stated: "No matter how one dips into the recesses of the mind, one stumbles on the same problems - the storage and retrieval of information, some true, some false; imaginative and creative reconstruction; circumstances that inhibit and circumstances that facilitate." Claims for the validity of hypnotic regression have ranged from the claim that such experiences are age accurate and reflect the absolute truth, to the view that regressions are not age accurate but rather the subject creates a hallucinated environment appropriate to the suggestion, combines random memories from the period (and years before and after), and contributes a certain amount of confabulation.

The view that hypnotic age regressions are of limited validity is certainly supported by such cases as the following. "As an illustration of the extent to which a hypnotic subject will role-play an extreme regression on demand, Kline...had a subject regress beyond birth and down the evolutionary ladder that man has presumably climbed. When his subject was moving about the floor, apelike, she could not talk. According to a prearranged posthypnotic suggestion, she would communicate by sneezing involuntarily when an appropriate letter of the alphabet was presented; the letters she selected, when asked 'Where are you?' spelled out C-H-I-M-P-A-N-Z-E-E" (Hilgard, 1977, p 50). Past lives researchers please note!

After surveying the varied experimental evidence regarding hypnotic age regression, including experiments where subjects were told to role play a hypnotised subject in an attempt to fool the hypnotist, Hilgard (1977, p 58) concluded that "...hypnotic age regression is not an ablation of everything later than the age of the repressed experience; it does not necessarily achieve accuracy in demonstrating age-specific abilities at the regressed age; it is not miraculous in uncovering experiences of birth or a prior life; but it is interesting in the subjectively convincing experience of reliving earlier experiences with hallucinatory intensity. The fact that many aspects of the regression can be achieved by nonhypnotisable subjects weakens the special role of hypnosis without denying the presence of dissociative features."

Noted psychologists are not alone in their caution re the validity of information produced from hypnotic regressions. In the UFO field, the by now well-known research by Lawson has also cast doubts. Lawson (1977) compared the testimonies of groups of "real" UFO abductees who claimed to have undergone an abduction experience and "imaginary" UFO abductees who had no conscious knowledge of having undergone a UFO abduction experience. The latter group of subjects were hypnotised and directed to imagine they had had a UFO experience involving contact with entities aboard a UFO. Comparison of the narratives of both groups revealed many parallels, including many presumed obscure patterns from UFO literature which also emerged in the imaginary narratives.

Lawson suggests several sources of possible invalidation of results obtained from hypnotic regression of alleged UFO abductees: (1) the imagination; (2) general UFO information within the culture at large; (3) extrasensory perception of UFO information from ufologists present or from other sources; and (4) the incorporation of memories, such as past real-life surgery incorporated in a fantasised

"medical examination" by UFO entities. The main criticism that can be made of Lawson's work is that he has thus far performed only selective, subjective comparisons of a few "real" and "imaginary" transcripts. What is needed is a scientifically-controlled comparison utilising a large sample of cases and independent judges who are kept "blind" as to the identity of each transcript. An outline of further research in the abduction experience field is given in Moravec (1981b).

In Australia, although a few time lapse cases have occurred, no fully-fledged abduction scenarios have thus far been documented and no hypnotic regressions have been conducted. This situation contrasts dramatically with the veritable plague of abduction reports emanating from North and South America. Could it be that the artificially-induced ASC that we call hypnosis actually promotes abduction fantasies, given the right social context and ready availability of abduction folklore?

The classic UFO abduction account, in many ways considered to be "the original and the best", is the Betty and Barney Hill case which occurred in New Hampshire in 1961. After observing a UFO, the frightened couple returned home, where they realised there was a period of time for which they could not account. Eventually, the Hills were hypnotically regressed and they recounted a fantastic tale of abduction and physical examination by UFO entities (Fuller, 1974).

Whilst the psychiatrist/hypnotist, Dr Benjamin Simon, had little background knowledge about UFOs and can thus be virtually eliminated as a source of contamination as far as the Hills' testimony is concerned, there are other factors which support a psychological explanation of the case. Particularly relevant is that ten days after the UFO sighting occurred, Betty Hill had nightmares of being abducted by UFO entities. Betty and Barney Hill were regressed independently but not before Betty had communicated details of her abduction dreams to Barney. These dreams contained details similar to what the couple were later to recall when hypnotised by Dr Simon.

To summarise, whilst some experiences reported under hypnotic age regression may involve the correct recall of observations and experiences which might not be ordinarily remembered during the usual conscious state, such recall must not be automatically assumed to be perfect. The distortions produced during the memory process can also occur in hypnotic states. The validity of data obtained during hypnotic regression is limited by a number of factors including the subject's ready compliance to the hypnotist's direct and indirect suggestions, and the incorporation of non-relevant memories and fantasies.

We have examined a number of reported UFO experiences and related them to a variety of altered states of consciousness. Showing that such correlations exist, is not sufficient to prove causation. To explain certain experiences in terms of ASCs requires us to examine the methods of induction and the personality and situational characteristics which are necessary to produce the ASC-UFO experience. A discussion of these aspects has been included in Moravec (1981a).

To be continued.

GENESIS OF THE MODERN UFO PHENOMENA WITH RESPECT TO THE NATURE AND
ORIGIN OF UFC'S

(by) John Prytz

Abstract: A range of psychological and sociological factors have been looked at with a view towards explaining why UFOs became such a major part of modern civilization in the late 1940's. Nothing was uncovered which looks even remotely logical. The conclusion therefore is that only an external explanation such as ETI can fit the facts relating to this most curious development - the genesis of the UFO phenomena.

The modern UFO phenomena flowered, indeed exploded, into public awareness, world-wide, in the late 1940's. What's new you ask? Nothing. But what I want to know is why? Was it an almost inevitable fad (a "fad" which just will not go away, which in itself tells us something about the nature of the phenomena) given the climate of the times, which needed only the smallest of triggering mechanisms to set the train of events in motion, or, was this ultra-flop (of world-wide, decades long duration) something which no historian, sociologist, or psychologist would or could have predicted in advance, even in their wildest dreams, nor can retrospectively find a solid and definable cause for? To answer this question would go a long way toward defining whether the bulk of the hard-core, bona-fide, UFO case histories, at least at that time (the late 1940's), were the products of internal or external intelligence. I say "at that time" because in order to find socially, historically, culturally, and psychologically unpolluted UFO cases, an environment where UFOs were not part and parcel of the public conscious, one has to go back to that beginning. (In addition, the earlier cases are valuable in weeding out various physical explanations such as satellites, etc.,.) It's too easy today to say that people have UFOs/space flight/ETI, etc. on the brain, hence state that X% of today's UFOs are internally generated by the mind. But was that, could that have been, true in the late 1940's?

Now sure there was the airship mystery near the turn of the century. but:

"Disappointing as it may seem, there is little doubt that the airship waves of 1896-97 were a product of hoaxes, wishful thinking, and downright fake journalism." 2

And of course the foo-fighter mystery of WWII and the "ghost-rocket" phenomena of 1946 pre-dated the "modern" UFO era, not to mention an every now and again isolated UFO sighting which are scattered throughout the first 40% of the 20th Century. None of these triggered the exponential upswing in UFO sightings around the world starting mid-year into 1947. The time wasn't ripe, either for the large scale social

or psychological conditions to internally generate UFOs, or for ETI to invade and undertake reconnaissance of Earth on a large scale, depending upon your point of view.

Something very special happened in the mid-year of 1947 in general and to Kenneth Arnold on 24 June in particular, a particular case which neutral researchers still list as a bona-fide unidentified. The Arnold UFO

"...was an exciting story in 1947 and the one that triggered public interest and official U.S. Air Force involvement in the UFO controversy. It is also a sighting that must remain perhaps forever in the category of UFO reports that have never been satisfactorily explained." 3

It is satisfying that the UFO sighting which triggered off the modern era is still an unknown, but what triggered off that sighting (and until such time as UFQs became a part of our image of the world, those UFO cases immediately following the Arnold one)?

Was that happening due to some physical environmental quirk which resulted in the rapid production of some unknown and unknowable in advance natural phenomena? There is no evidence for this. The only new environmental factor at that time was the introduction of nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, but hardly on a large enough scale to alter the physical and chemical properties of the atmosphere to a degree large enough to produce the then "flying saucers". No, atmospheric testing of H-bombs doesn't seem a likely physical, hence environmental, candidate for massive UFO production. But perhaps an atmospheric physicist would like to comment on what, if any, changes our atmosphere underwent in the latter 1940's.

Was that happening due to a rapid step up in ETI surveillance of Earth and Earthlings, perhaps due to that very quantum leap in terrestrial technology - the atomic bomb as so many before me have suggested - but possibly for another unknown reason(s) which only the ETI are privy to knowing? This I personally hold as the most likely. It at least fits the facts as we know and understand them, and no credible objection which is ironclad and unassailable has yet been lodged against it.

The final alternative, the social, cultural, psychological climate of the times being ripe to produce an imaginary (internal intelligence) phenomena does not hold much credibility as we shall soon see.

Unfortunately, there are very few (if any) ufologists who have extensive qualifications and/or experience in sociology, psychology, etc. and who are students of history (including the indepth knowledge of the scientific, science fictional, and astronomical aspects), knowledgeable about mass media influences, and who themselves lived through the late 1940's as mature adults. Lacking this ideal person(s) to comment on the issue at hand (though if such a body exists and reads this I hope to hear from him), and lacking a definitive professional paper on the subject

(if it exists I don't know of it and would welcome knowledge of same), I'll play the role of amateur "expert" and start this ball rolling.

Was the overall public conscious of and saturated with thoughts of and exposure to the concepts of space travel and ETI in the manner as expressed through what has been reported as space travelling, ETI UFOs by that same public in the latter 1940's? Based on what data I've uncovered, I'd conclude it most unlikely.

But first of all, it would be most instructive and enlightening to go back to the press of that time, just to get a feel for the times. Now time and space don't permit an exhaustive reading of every newspaper for every day in the 2 or 3 years prior to June 1947, but, as a random example what were the major stories in the New York Times on the day - that is, on 24 June 1947? I checked the microfilm. I didn't expect to find any stories about mysterious atmospheric objects, space flight, trips to the moon, NASA, satellites, bug-eyed monsters sending radio waves in our direction and SETI programs awaiting the arrival of same, etc. And guess what? I didn't! Those sorts of stories were not to be for another entire decade! The major stories were:⁴

- "BILL CURBING LABOR BECOMES LAW AS SENATE OVERRIDES VETO, 63-25; UNIONS TO FIGHT FOR QUICK REPEAL"
- "MARSHALL AND PATTERSON APPEAL FOR SPEEDY ARMS AID TO AMERICAS"
- "ASCAP SUED BY U.S. AS A WORLD TRUST"
- "U.S. IS ENCOURAGED OVER PARIS MEETING"
- "TENEMENT CRASHES AS BOYS' WARNING SAVES OCCUPANTS"
- "20,000 HALT WORK IN SHIPYARDS HERE"
- "HIGH COURT CURBS PETRILLO POWERS"
- "SOVIET WELCOMED TO FARLEY ON AID BY FRANCE, BRITAIN"
- "ANALYSIS OF THE LABOR ACT SHOWS CHANGED ERA AT HAND FOR INDUSTRY"
- "NAM ASKS INDUSTRY TO HELP LABOR LAW WORK SMOOTHLY"

In a word, "boring" as this was to be the day which saw the ultimate reason for you readers reading this now! We shall return to this issue of the New York Times shortly for more insights, but thus far things don't look too hopeful to those looking towards internal intelligence.

What about space/ETI oriented science fiction films? Alas, not a single motion picture with any science fictional theme was playing in the New York City cinemas on 24 June 1947 according to the amusements section of the Times. Now of course by that period motion pictures, including those with space/ETI content, were well established. An analysis does show that there was an exponential increase experienced in space/ETI science fiction films over time. But, that rapid increase took place after the genesis of the modern UFO phenomena, not before.

TABLE ONE: Space/ETI Motion Pictures as a Function of Time

5-Year Time Periods	No. of Space/ETI Sci-Fi Films
1900 - 1904	2
1905 - 1909	8
1910 - 1914	2
1915 - 1919	2
1920 - 1924	2
1925 - 1929	1
1930 - 1934	1
1935 - 1939	6
1940 - 1944	2
1945 - 1949	5
1950 - 1954	34
1955 - 1959	53
1960 - 1964	31

In fact, according to the essay from which I took this data,⁵ the space/ETI sci-fi film closest in time to, yet preceding the genesis of the modern UFO era was the 1945 film The Purple Monster Strikes! I somehow doubt that this was the internal intelligence trigger! That essay also states:

"After (my emphasis) the Kenneth Arnold sighting in the State of Washington and subsequent flying-saucer wave of 1947, saucers shared the stage with rocketships (in motion pictures)"⁶

Thus, prior to June 1947, with one 1930's Flash Gordon exception, space flight/ETI was associated with traditional rocketships and not oval, cigar-shaped (with no fins), saucer-like, etc. objects. Therefore, UFOs, if internally generated yet associated with space travel/ETI, should have reflected the popular and traditional concept. It didn't!

Perhaps based on the data in Table One, one could make a stronger case for UFOs being the trigger for the increase in space/ETI sci-fi films, vis-a-vis what pro-Imagery advocates would desire!

What about science fiction on television? Television did exist (barely) in 1947, and a brief history of this major influence upon our lives is in order.

Many scientists contributed to the development of television, and no one person can be called its inventor. However, Vladimir K. Zworykin probably made the most important contribution to television as we know it today and he first demonstrated the first completely electronic, practical television system in 1923. Many experimental telecasts took place in the late 1920's and early 1930's, of which the BBC in London and CBS and NBC in New York were the leaders. The first American telecasts on anything

like a regular basis began in July 1936 following the installation of 150 TV receivers in homes in N.Y. City. However, WWII quickly killed off TV experiments and broadcasting in both Britain and New York in America. Following the War's end in 1945, the American national networks, all based in N.Y. City, resumed broadcasting. At first, their telecasts reached only the area between Boston and Washington, D.C., but by 1951, this was extended coast-to-coast. At the time of the Arnold UFO sighting then, there was no television in that area or anywhere in the American west where the first UFO flap was experienced. In 1945, there were fewer than 10,000 TV sets in the United States, which soared to about 6 million by about 1950, and to almost 60 million by 1960. Thus, at the time of the UFO genesis, there were only about 2 to 3 million TV sets in the country, which may seem like a lot, but not relative to America's population, and the TV set density of today. Thus, if TV did have an influence in triggering off the UFO phenomena, it would have been quite minor - too minor in fact to be able to explain all. But what could have been on the box at that time (June 1947) to even contribute in a minor way? According to the New York Times for the 24th of June 1947, N.Y. City had only 3 TV stations (as compared to today's 9 or more) and (as an aside) over 20 A.M. radio stations and 9 P.M. stations. On the day 2 TV stations had "no programs scheduled" and the 3rd started to broadcast at 6:15 P.M. with "News from Washington", "Movies for Small Fry", "Cash and Carry", "Film: Serving Through Science", "Sports Names to Remember", and finally at 8:40 P.M. "Baseball: Yankees vs Cleveland at Yankee Stadium". End of broadcast 7. Needless to say, Arnold did not watch any TV in the period prior to that flight as there was no TV to view in his geographical location. But even if there had been, would or could there have been anything of a nature that would have triggered off visions of "flying saucers" zipping through the air? In short, was there any sci-fi on the box in 1947?

"The first sf series to appear on American TV, Captain Video... began in 1949 (my emphasis)" 8

So, there were no Little Green Men, rocketships, Space Shuttle launches being broadcast live, etc. at anytime prior to the genesis of the UFO mystery, via what today must be the means for shaping the public conscious (and sub-conscious). Scratch television too as a possible trigger!

From the 1920's through the early 1950's, radio was the major mass media influence for shaping the public's image of the world. And from the 1930's on, in both the U.S. and Britain, sci-fi, and thrillers incorporating sci-fi and supernatural elements were fairly common on the radio (the best known example probably being the Orson Welles broad-

-cast of the H.G. Wells classic War of the Worlds on 30 Oct. 1938). Thus, it could be said that radio was what finally triggered off the UFO fad. Although this would be a theory worthy of intense (but difficult) research a final proof of cause and effect (radio:UFCs) an interesting result, my immediate reaction and objection would be the time lag of nearly 2 decades between the start of the cause (radio) and the start of the effect (UFOs). Anyway, I'll leave this ball for someone else to kick around.

Having (to my satisfaction at least) eliminated 2 of 3 mass media influences (motion pictures and television) as triggers for the genesis of the UFO phenomena, let me turn briefly to the print media. Firstly, non-fiction.

As with sci-fi motion pictures, articles and books about ETI and space flight existed well before the modern UFO era, and as with sci-fi films, these articles and books underwent an explosion by the numbers. However, and also parallel to sci-fi motion pictures, this explosion or exponential increase, happened after and not before UFCs appeared on the scene (and screen).

TABLE TWO: Space/ETI Non-Fiction References as a Function of Time 9

Time Periods	No. of References (5-year average)
1900 - 1919	3.5
1920 - 1929	11
1930 - 1939	15
1940 - 1945	11
1945 - 1949	15
1950 - 1954	63
1955 - 1959	174
1960 - 1964	539

Perhaps the UFO phenomena helped to stimulate interest in space flight and ETI. That would be a more logical conclusion from the data above than to suggest the reverse!

Moving along to sci-fi and the print media doesn't give the Imagery advocates much room to manoeuvre either. All throughout the "golden age of science fiction" (which paralleled the golden age of sci-fi on radio), the means of delivery to what readers there were were via the pulp zines. The circulation of these weren't high; display on the newsstands was not prominent; writers weren't paid very well (in those days not even I. Asimov could make a living by writing sci-fi); the slick journals wouldn't touch the subject with a 10-metre pole; what books were published were usually published by small speciality publishing houses and never made the top 10 best seller lists. To the masses, science fiction was not the "in-thing" to read and no bookstore ever had a separate section devoted to the subject matter. The few "acceptable" novelists, such as H.G. Wells or J. Verne,

would be found in a general literature section. But all of this is well known and well worn history to today's sci-fi buffs. It is hard to contrast this era just before and during the 1940's with today's intense interest in, and the marketing and packaging of science fiction - now an "in-thing". But again, that transition took place after UFOs were an established facet of our society, not before.

"The sf magazine world reached a publishing peak in 1953 when 34 different magazines were being issued in the United States alone.

...By the mid-1950s however, the death-knell was sounding for many magazines, especially the pulps. A combination of causes such as television, the slick magazines and a blossoming paperback field, made the pulp magazine seem outdated, and, almost as one, they died.

...Alas, all good things come to an end, and by the early 1960s paperbacks were making their presence felt on the magazine market." 10

Another point of view:

"By the early 1950s, however, a number of established publishers had become aware of the commercial (my emphasis) potential of sf..."

...Where paperback sf remained, with certain exceptions, largely worthless ephemera in Britain until the late 1950s, in the USA it more quickly became an established part of publishers' lists.

...Through the 1960s and '70s sf continued to grow in strength as a published category. The last of the important specialist sf publishers, Gnome Press, died in the early 1960s..." 11

The point is this. It wasn't until after the era which saw the genesis of the UFO had come and gone, that science fiction in any sort of large scale commercial and profitable form emerged. The hardcore, but small in number, readers of sci-fi prior to 1947 could not have been of high enough quantity with massive enough influence, to trigger off the UFO phenomena, even if that sci-fi had reflected what we now view UFOs to be. As a form of prophecy, pre-1947 sci-fi did not overall view many, indeed most, of the modern-day UFO facets, with any degree of accuracy - and why should have they reflected what UFO characteristics have been documented today, way back then, given that UFOs are a product of external intelligence? No reason at all. But a problem exists if UFOs are internally generated and yet their traits do not (with rare exceptions 12) parallel the internally generated fictional concepts which existed prior to the UFO era.

In short, with respect to items relating to space flight, ETI, etc. as expressed through fiction or non-fiction, there is no evidence on which to base a conclusion that these sorts of concepts were common enough in pre-1947 days to be day-in, day-out part and parcel images for the public - the same public responsible for the genesis of the UFO fad.

But that's not quite the end of the story. Some further observations on this issue are in order.

The UFOs as ETI manifestations, if internally generated, should have been apparent immediately - that is, including occupant sightings and abduction cases by the end of 1947, accompanied by massive publicity. That wasn't to be. The initial theory, gut reaction, was that UFOs were no doubt a logical extension of weapons development following WWII - the "secret weapons" theory - and many popular articles followed that line in the early years 13, 14. It wasn't until January 1950 that the idea that "UFO = 's ETI" was given prominent public exposure, starting with Donald Keyhoe's True article, quickly followed by his book of the same title, The Flying Saucers Are Real, and a host of other articles and books by other authors which followed the initial Keyhoe theory. And from about that time, the "what" of UFOs was polluted as far as any subsequent reports and investigations were concerned. From that point maybe all UFO reports, as equated with ETI, were internally generated. But before? From mid-1947 through 1949, UFOs did not equal ETI for all practical purposes, but secret weapons. As there were no secret weapons, and no likely internally generated ETI UFOs during that period, what were the mysterious objects sighted? Internally generated secret weapons? Or, perhaps externally generated ETI UFOs!

So what was so special, in a cultural, social, and/or psychological sense in the years and months leading up to June 1947? Nothing! What was so special about the latter 1940's that all of a sudden the citizens of the United States (and Canada, Europe, Australia, etc.) would by the hundreds emulate the experience of one man (Arnold) who nobody had ever heard of before? I mean it wasn't as if the President of the United States had reported the very first "flying saucer": The entire genesis of the UFO "fad", given the climate of those times, I suggest was therefore externally generated. And, as a complement to that, I further suggest that if there ever was an ideal time to imagine alien spaceships, one would make a more convincing case for one of two non-1940's historical periods.

If there was an ideal time for the public to have mass hallucinations about extraterrestrial spaceships, it would have been in the late 1950's and early 1960's. That five year period of 1957 through 1961 saw the birth of NASA, the start of the space race, Sputnik, Ranger, Project Mercury, the announcement of Project Apollo, Mariner 2 launched to Venus, Project Ozma (the first attempt at SETI), etc. The press, journals, electronic media, books, etc. were full of space news, announcements, and achievements. The "canals" of Mars were still visible as Mariner 4 had yet to be launched. Science fiction was on the box and the explosion of space/ETI related sci-fi motion pictures had begun. Popular authors left,

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right and center wrote about the new science of "exobiology" and our quest for finding ETI among the stars following the "invention" of radio astronomy in the 1940's. Science and science education exploded upon the American scene, mainly out of fear of the Russian space achievements. The introduction of the mass market paperback book, not only in science fiction but in presenting science for the masses, was off and running. None of the above (with the exception of the Martian "canals") was true on and shortly before "flying saucers" entered our culture. But of course the flowering of space, ETI, even science in 1957-1961 could not have produced ETI UFOs as they were already ingrained in our minds. So, that's all just academic!

But that wasn't so if we go back to the first decade or two of this century, in my opinion another ideal period for UFOs to have been produced by the collective human mind - not that they were of course.

Some have suggested that it was the emotional conditions shortly following WWII which contributed, indeed was responsible for, the bloom of internally generated UFOs. But why didn't it happen following WWI, which I would have thought to have been more of an emotional shock to the world than round two, two decades away? WWII at least had a precedent!

Above and beyond that, the early years of this century witnessed the birth of manned powered flight. It was when the concept of intelligent life on Mars peaked; when Percival Lowell popularized the "canals" of Mars through numerous books and popular articles; when Marconi was searching for Martian radio broadcasts; when a reward was offered for the first proof of the existence of intelligent alien life - excepting Mars as that was too obvious and easy! Further, it was the era when the H.G. Wells novels such as War of the Worlds and First Men in the Moon were all the rage, whether in hardback for the elite, or the pulp magazine reprints for the others. But where were the innate, instinctive, internally generated UFOs? Like nowhere!!! And these are facts which advocates of internal intelligence just cannot ignore or gloss over.

In summary then, we see that there was nothing overly special about the era which saw the genesis of UFOs and in fact other time periods would have been better placed to produce imaginary alien spaceships; there were few, if any, influencing factors of the sort that would mirror the UFO characteristics before the fact, and in fact a strong case could be made for the UFO genesis having something to do with the growth and interest in sci-fi, ETI, space travel, etc. instead of the reverse.

The timing of the genesis of the modern UFO phenomena, which cannot be logically accounted for, is yet another forceful argument for the external nature of, an external intelligence behind, the UFO, and yet another nail in the coffin of the pro internal intelligence advocates.

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(by) John Prytz

Compiler's Note: When one normally thinks of SETI/CETI, one thinks of vast terrestrial radio astronomical telescopes scanning the heavens for the faint whispers of artificial radio signals from extraterrestrial civilizations, such as in Project Ozma or the "on the drawing boards" Project Cyclops. But one could easily think of and include such things as research into UFOs and/or "ancient astronauts" as a form of SETI. Other than the above, there are, or have been, several other ways and means suggested of SETI hence CETI, non-traditional methodologies, as this bibliography shows.

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